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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 30, 1994

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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The Honorable Dennis DeConcini
U.S. Senate
SH - 328
Washington, D.C. 20510

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Dear Senator DeConcini:

93-253

This letter is in further response to the May 27, 1994 letter you co-signed with 4 other Senators regarding the Commission's consideration of the competitive award structure for emerging wireless technologies such as personal communications services (PCS). That letter specifically addressed the need to provide an opportunity for small businesses, rural telephone companies, and businesses owned by minorities and women to participate in providing these services.

At its meeting yesterday, the Commission adopted service-specific rules for broadband PCS. Beyond setting the rules for the auction of the spectrum, the Commission adopted a "Competitive Opportunity Plan" under which two "entrepreneurs' blocks," together consisting of 986 30 MHz and 10 MHz Basic Trading Area licenses, have been established. Bidding eligibility for these blocks will be limited so as to afford smaller businesses, including those owned by minorities and women, the ability to participate in the auctions without facing competition from the largest of companies. Within the entrepreneurial blocks, the Commission established a range of provisions to address the most challenging entry barrier to these entities - access to capital. These provisions include bidding credits, installment payment plans, tax certificates and relaxed attribution standards for businesses owned by small business and minorities.

The Commission has sought to implement the Congressional intent of Section 309(j) of the Communications Act passed by Congress in August 1993, to bring tangible opportunity to those who have historically been precluded from providing telecommunications services and has sought to ensure that this opportunity be an enduring one where competition and participation by all segments of society emerge as the standard. Enclosed is a summary of the Commission's action. If you would like a copy of the written order when it is released or any additional information, please do not hesitate to call me. My phone number is 418-1903.

Sincerely,

Judith L. Harris

Judith L. Harris

Director of Legislative Affairs

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Enclosure

PRB
Auctions
PV
RCH

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

May 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are concerned with recent indications that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) may not be fully implementing Section 309(j) of the Communications Act passed by Congress in August 1993, granting the Commission authority to conduct auctions for licensing radio spectrum for the emerging Personal Communications Services (PCS) industry.

Congress specifically designed subsection 4(D) of Section 309(j) to ensure that women and minority owned firms, small businesses, and rural telephone companies are given an equal opportunity to participate in the PCS bidding process. As you know, PCS will create a massive new telecommunications market representing an historic opportunity to expand the ownership and control of our telecommunications industry to include all citizens.

Given the estimated costs of establishing a PCS network and purchasing licenses, it is our belief that the Commission must implement four essential mechanisms so minority and women owned firms (having at least 50.1 percent equity ownership and 50.1 percent controlling interest) and small businesses, including rural telephone companies, have access to the necessary capital to compete in the PCS market. These mechanisms are: frequency set-asides; installment payments; tax certificates; and bidding credits. Anything short of these devices, particularly set-asides, would fail to properly and fully implement the provisions of Section 309(j)(4)(D) of the Communications Act and would have the likely effect of barring minority, women, and small business entry into the PCS market.

While the March 8, 1994 FCC regulations on competitive bidding for narrowband radio spectrum included some provisions for women, small businesses, and minority participation, the Commission did not treat these entities in a balanced manner, and failed to address rural telephone companies specifically. By failing to categorically and uniformly adopt spectrum set-asides on an MTA basis, tax

The Honorable Reed Hundt
May 20, 1994
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certificates, installment payments and bidding credits, the Commission falls short of complying with its congressional mandate to ensure fair opportunities for small business, including rural telephone companies, minorities and women in this new form of communication.

Compliance with Congressional intent is critical to ensure that the designated entities have access to participate in this emerging industry. We trust that you will look into this matter and address our concerns before the promulgation of auction rules for broadband PCS. We would also welcome your assurance that the Commission will pursue a strategy to suitably improve the problems we have raised.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.


Sincerely,


Bill Richardson, M.C.

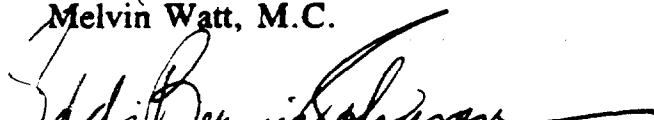

Patricia Schroeder, M.C.


Jose Serrano, M.C.


Major Owens, M.C.



Melvin Watt, M.C.


Ilse Ros-Lehtinen, M.C.


Eddie Bernice Johnson, M.C.



Robert Torricelli, M.C.


Lincoln Diaz-Balart, M.C.


Nancy Johnson, M.C.

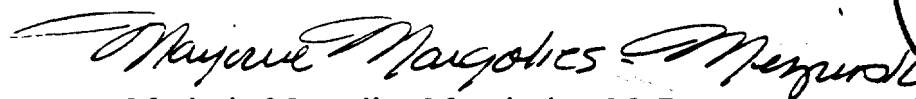

Carlos Romero-Barcelo, M.C.


Frank McCloskey, M.C.


Robert Menendez, M.C.


Peter Deutsch, M.C.

The Honorable Reed Hundt
May 20, 1994
Page three



Marjorie Margolies-Mezvinsky, M.C.



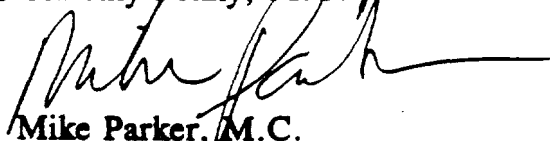
Bernard Sanders, M.C.



Robert C. Scott, M.C.



Timothy Penny, M.C.



Mike Parker, M.C.

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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3103

May 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W. Room 814
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am enclosing the signatures of 44 additional members of Congress who would like to add their names to the letter regarding Personal Communications Services auction rules for the designated entities which I, along with 18 members, sent to you on May 20. A copy of the original letter is also attached.

I apologize for the hasty presentation of the additional signatures, but I believe that Congressional support for the strategy outlined in the attached letter is clear. Please contact me if I can provide you further information.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bill".

Bill Richardson
Chief Deputy Majority Whip

BR/mm

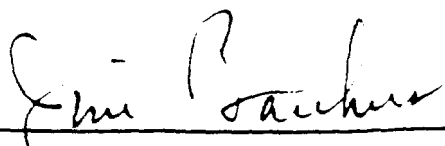
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11 PASO DE PERALTA
SANTA FE, NM 87501
(505) 988-7230

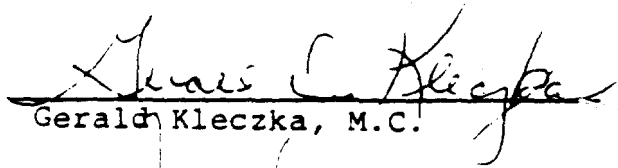
GALLUP:
GALLUP CITY MALL
2ND AND AZTEC STREETS
GALLUP, NM 87301
(505) 722-8822

LAS VEGAS:
SAN MIGUEL COUNTY COURTHOUSE
P.O. BOX 1808
LAS VEGAS, NM 87701
(505) 428-7270

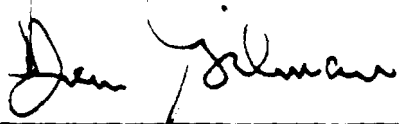
CLOVIS:
602 MITCHELL STREET
CLOVIS, NM 88101
(505) 769-3380



Jim Bacchus, M.C.



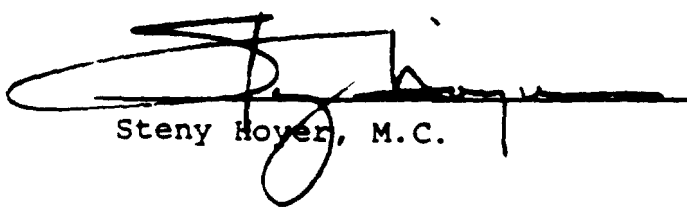
Gerald Kleczka, M.C.



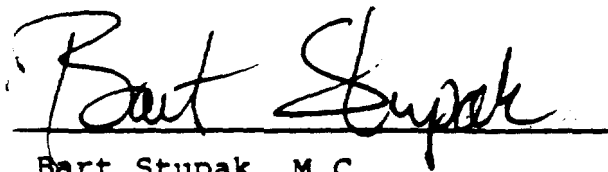
Ben Gilman, M.C.



Ed Pastor, M.C.



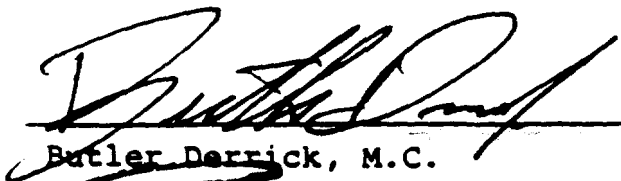
Steny Hoyer, M.C.



Bart Stupak, M.C.



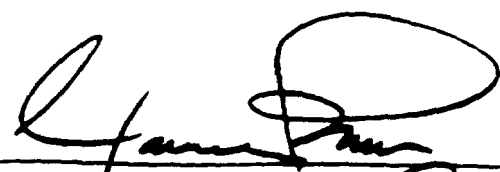
Karen Thurman, M.C.



Butler Derrick, M.C.



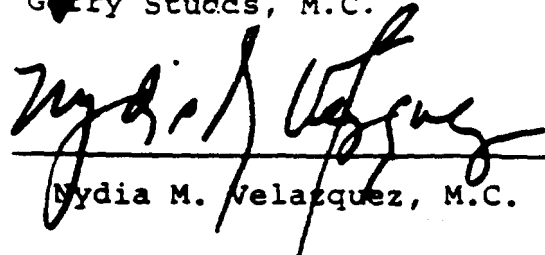
Bob Carr, M.C.



Xavier Becerra, M.C.



Gerry Studds, M.C.



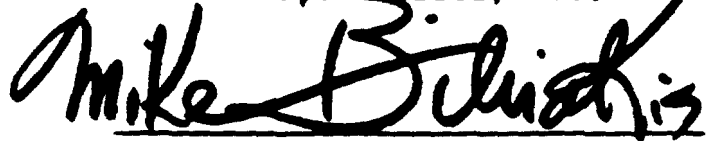
Nydia M. Velazquez, M.C.



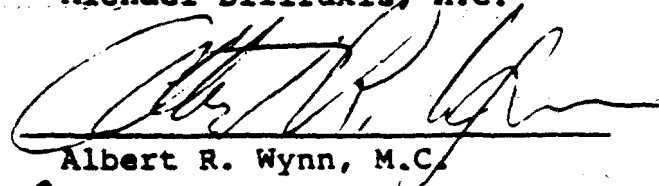
Lucille Royball-Allard, M.C.



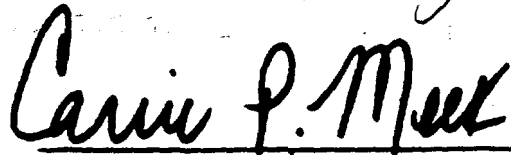
Luis V. Gutierrez, M.C.



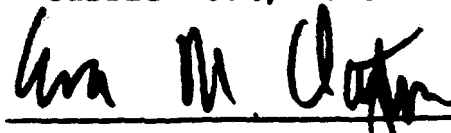
Michael Bilirakis, M.C.



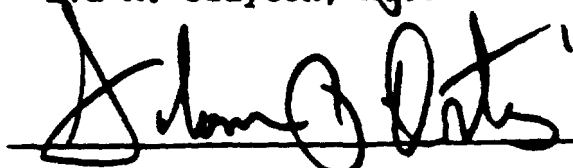
Albert R. Wynn, M.C.



Carrie Meek, M.C.



Eva M. Clayton, M.C.



Solomon P. Ortiz

Nancy Pelosi
Nancy Pelosi, M.C.

Nita Lowey
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Rosa DeLauro
Rosa DeLauro, M.C.

Corrine Brown
Corrine Brown, M.C.

Esteban Torres
Esteban Torres, M.C.

Pete Peterson
Pete Peterson, M.C.

Sidney Yates
Sidney Yates, M.C.

David Skaggs
David Skaggs, M.C.

Bill Hefner
Bill Hefner, M.C.

Bob Wise
Bob Wise, M.C.

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Michael Kopetski
Michael Kopetski, M.C.

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Barney Frank
Barney Frank, M.C.

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Sam Gajdenson, M.C.

Howard Berman
Howard Berman, M.C.

Bruce Vento
Bruce Vento, M.C.

Charlie Fob

Charlie Fob

Jim Cooper

Jim Cooper, M.C.

Martin Frost

Martin Frost, M.C.

Dan Glickman

Dan Glickman, M.C.

Gary Condit

Gary Condit, M.C.

Richard Durbin

Richard Durbin, M.C.